

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7456

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DEPT PASS IO/SCT AND ACDA FOR MALONE AND DAVIS FROM MCNEILL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, IAEA, TECH

SUBJECT: IAEA CONSULTANTS MEETING ON INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL
ASPECTS OF IAEA REGIONAL FUEL CYCLE CENTER STUDY: FIRST DAY

1. SUBJECT MEETING COMMENCED AS PLANNED 27 APRIL.
CONSULTANTS PRESENT WERE: R. STUGER OF AUSTRIA (KKWP); P.
GUSTAFSSON OF FINLAND (MFA DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AFFAIRS); J.
MANNINEN OF FINLAND (MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY);
REVEST OF FRANCE (CEA); H. FINK OF FRG (URANIT); S. SHIMO-
YAMA OF JAPAN (JAPCO); BYOUNG WHIE LEE OF KOREA (DIRECTOR,
ATOMIC ENERGY BUREAU, MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY);
J. LIND OF SWEDEN (MFA); B. GUSTAVSSON OF SWEDEN (SVENSK
KARNBRANSLE FORSORJNING AB); P. STROHL (OECD/NEA); J. MCNEILL
(ACDA/GC). EXPECTED LATER IN THE WEEK ARE: W. ROOKE OF THE
UK (URENCO), P. HUET OF FRANCE (CONSEIL D'ETAT), AND A.
HEGBURG (OECD/INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY). DR. N. MCDONALD,
AUSTRALIAN ALTERNATE RESREP TO IAEA, ATTENDED AS OBSERVER.
P. GUSTAFSSON (FINLAND) WAS NAMED MEETING CHAIRMAN BY
IAEA SECRETARIAT.

2. ACCORDING TO AGENCY SECRETARIAT, HUNGARIAN GOVT WAS
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INVITED TO PROVIDE CONSULTANT BUT WAS UNABLE TO DO SO.

FOLLOWING GOVERNMENTS WERE INVITED TO PROVIDE CONSULTANTS BUT DID NOT RESPOND: ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL. GOVERNMENT OF IRAN ALSO INVITED, BUT REFUSED TO PROVIDE CONSULTANT, EXPRESSING DISINTEREST IN STUDY TO AGENCY SECRETARIAT.

3. AFTER WELCOMING REMARKS BY DDG ZHELUDEV, CONSULTANTS DISCUSSED NATURE AND SCOPE OF RFCC STUDY, DURING WHICH DISCUSSION SECRETARIAT STUDY DIRECTOR MECKONI BRIEFED CONSULTANTS ON RESULTS OF IAEA-OECD/NEA DECEMBER 1975 "NUCLEAR POWER GROWTH ESTIMATE" AND INFERRED FROM THESE FIGURES (CHALLENGED AS INFLATED BY JAPANESE, SWEDISH AND USG CONSULTANTS) THAT REPROCESSING SPENT-FUEL STORAGE WAS A QUESTION RIPE FOR DECISION BY MANY GOVERNMENTS. AFTER ANALYZING ISSUE SOLELY IN TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL TERMS, MECKONI TOLD CONSULTANTS IN REPLY TO QUESTION BY MCNEILL THAT EQUALLY IMPORTANT FACTORS EXISTED WHICH COULD PERSUADE GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT RFCC CONCEPT, SPECIFICALLY ACKNOWLEDGING AMONG THESE NPT, NON-PROLIFERATION AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS AND PHYSICAL SECURITY. JAPANESE AND FINNS ALSO ENDORSED IMPORTANCE OF THESE POLITICAL AND SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, AS DID SWEDE (LIND) SPEAKING PRIVATELY TO MCNEILL DURING SUBSEQUENT RECESS.

4. LIND ALSO TOLD MCNEILL THAT SWEIDSH GOVERNMENT COMMISSION STUDYING "BACK-END" OF NUCLEAR FUEL-CYCLE WILL PUBLISH ITS REPORT IN FOUR WEEKS TIME. REPORT EXPECTED TO FACTOR LARGELY IN UPCOMING SWEDISH PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE VEHICLE FOR DECIDING FUTURE OF SWEDISH REPROCESSING/ SPENT-FUEL STORAGE PLANS. IN LATTER CONNECTION, LIND NOTED SWEDISH GOVERNMENT NOW NEGOTIATING FOR SERVICES OF UNITED REPROCESSORS GMBH (URG). LIND SAID GOS HAD NOT YET DECIDED HOW TO REPLY TO DG EKLUND'S LETTER OF MARCH 26 SEEKING SWEDISH PARTICIPATION IN IAEA WORKING PARTY ON RFCC WITH FINNS, SWISS AND AUSTRIANS.

5. STUGER (AUSTRIA) STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT ALSO CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH URG FOR SERVICES. STUGER WENT ON TO MENTION AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT'S FAVORABLE REACTION TO DG EKLUND'S MARCH 26 LETTER SEEKING GOA PARTICIPATION IN RFCC WORKING PARTY WITH FINNS, SWEDES, AND SWISS. GUSTAFSSON (FIN-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LAND) TOLD MCNEILL THAT GOF HAD REACTED FAVORABLY TO SIMILAR LETTER FROM DG, WELCOMES RFCC STUDY AND WILL PARTICIPATE IN WORKING PARTY; "WE SUPPORT CONCEPT AND HAVE ONLY TO FIND PARTNERS," SAID GUSTAFSSON.

6. AT SUGGESTION OF STUGER (AUSTRIA), CHAIRMAN ASKED CONSULTANTS TO DESCRIBE STATUS OF REPROCESSING PLANS OF OWN GOVERNMENTS. STUGER, LIND, AND GUSTAFSSON (FINLAND) EACH

SUMMARIZED ESSENCE OF REMARKS REPORTED ABOVE, WITH FINN ALSO NOTING EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS OF GOF WITH USSR FOR REPROCESSING SERVICES FOR TWO EXISTING FINNISH REACTORS. SHIMOYAMA (JAPAN) DESCRIBED SITUATION AT TOKAI AND ARRANGEMENTS WITH BNFL/URG NOTING IN PASSING THAT JAPANESE NOW BUILDING THREE VESSELS FOR UK TO TRANSPORT SPENT JAPANESE FUEL. MCNEILL WAS ONLY OTHER CONSULTANT TO SPEAK, NOTING BRIEFLY CURRENT NRC REVIEW OF PLUTONIUM RE-CYCLE QUESTION, SUSPENSION OF REPROCESSING SERVICES, AND FACT THAT DESPITE ITS MORE THAN 40 GWE OF INSTALLED NUCLEAR GENERATING CAPACITY USG HAS NOT YET DETERMINED THAT REPROCESSING OF SPENT-FUEL IS NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE.

7. MCDONALD (AUSTRALIA) TOLD MCNEILL THAT, DESPITE LACK OF INVITATION, HE HAD COME TO SUBJECT MEETING AS OBSERVER ON OWN INITIATIVE BECAUSE AUSTRALIA IS SO OFTEN MENTIONED AS A SITE WHEN SUBJECT ARISES. MCDONALD VOLUNTEERED THAT POSSIBLE BENEFIT FOR GOA OF SITING RFCC IN AUSTRALIA COULD WELL BE ENRICHMENT BY RFCC OF AUSTRALIAN URANIUM FOR EXPORT. MCDONALD IS PERSONALLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT POSSIBILITIES AND EXPECTS GOA TO PLAY ACTIVE ROLE BOTH IN STUDY AND IN EXPLORING RFCC CONCEPT.

8. SHIMOYAMA (JAPAN) TOLD MCNEILL THAT OTSUKA HAD PERSONALLY SELECTED HIM TO ATTEND MEETING AND THAT, PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM TOKYO, HE HAD BEEN BRIEFED ON SUBJECT BY IMAI. SHIMOYAMA NOTED IMPOSSIBILITY OF FURTHER REPROCESSING OPERATIONS IN HOME ISLANDS AND ASKED IF SITE IN ALASKA WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR RFCC. MCNEILL REMINDED SHIMOYAMA OF CURRENT USG REVIEW OF PLUTONIUM RE-CYCLE QUESTION, BUT POINTED OUT THAT USG AWARENESS OF JAPANESE DIFFICULTIES COULD BE SAID TO BE REFLECTED IN USG INTEREST IN AND SUPPORT OF SUBJECT AGENCY STUDY. SHIMOYAMA, NOTING IMMINENCE OF NPT RATIFICATION BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIET LOWER HOUSE ("APRIL 28"), SAID THAT JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN IAEA STUDY MIGHT NOT CARRY THROUGH TO COMPLETION BECAUSE GOJ MIGHT, BEFORE SUCH TIME, HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO NEGOTIATE IN EARNEST WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS TOWARD THE GOAL OF ESTABLISHING SUCH A MULTINATIONAL CENTER.

9. CONSULTANTS WILL PROCEED WITH ANALYSIS OF SECRETARIAT DRAFT WORKING PAPER ON SUBJECT ON SECOND DAY OF MEETING. STONE

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